

News From U.S. Senator

North Dakota

Byron L. Dorgan

U.S. Senate " 713 Hart Building " Washington D.C. 20510

E-mail: senator@dorgan.senate.gov " Internet Web Page: www.senate.gov/~dorgan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday

February 29, 2000

CONTACT: Barry E. Piatt

or Dana McCallum

PHONE: 202-224-2551

He says China has responsibility to buy more U.S. farm commodities:

DORGAN TELLS CHINESE OFFICIALS THEY NEED TO BUY MORE FROM U.S. TO REDUCE \$70 BILLION TRADE DEFICIT

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) delivered a strong message Tuesday to China's Vice Minister for Trade Sun Zhenyu and members of a Chinese wheat delegation traveling in the United States, telling the Chinese officials they have a responsibility to help reduce the record U.S. trade deficit with China by purchasing more from the United States, particularly farm products.

The annual U.S. merchandise trade deficit with China is now nearly \$70 billion. "The trade relationship between our two countries must be mutually beneficial," Dorgan said. "China has a responsibility to begin working to reduce that deficit. I expect China to purchase more beef and pork from the United States and to also see a substantial increase in Chinese purchases of U.S. grains, including North Dakota wheat."

Even as the U.S. trade deficit with China has skyrocketed, Dorgan noted, Chinese purchases of U.S. grains have diminished.

"We expect more from this relationship," Dorgan said. "We believe that China has a responsibility to work to reduce this deficit and a good way to do that is to begin purchasing more U.S. agricultural goods and commodities."

— END —